

The adjournment motion was withdrawn.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I have received notice of another adjournment motion by Mr. Narayana Kurup, which is as follows :

"I beg leave to move that the business of the House be adjourned to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the inconvenience and difficulty experienced by the travelling public in State Transport buses, due to the improper control and supervision exercised by the Department and the Government".

I have examined the terms of this motion. I find that the motion is framed in very general terms. A motion for adjournment of the House must deal with a definite matter and moreover it must be a matter of urgent public importance. It may be stated that what is contained in the motion is not of urgent importance. I have therefore to rule the motion out of order.

REFERENCE TO THE DEMISE OF MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Before we proceed to the next item, let me say a few words about the untimely demise of one of our valued friends namely, Mr. K. Narayanaperumal Nadar. Mr. Narayanaperumal Nadar has been snatched away rather prematurely and suddenly. He was a very active member of this House until the last meeting of the Assembly. He was taking a keen interest in all questions relating not only to his own constituency but also on matters of general importance. He was very simple and unostentatious. He expressed his views very strongly although some of his views were not acceptable to the House; but nobody would deny that he had always shown a strong sense of duty and nobody would deny the sincerity of purpose. The death of the member is a serious loss not only to his constituency but also to this House. I am sure this House will like to place on record its deep sense of sorrow on the death of the valuable member.

The motion was agreed to, the whole house standing.

WELCOME TO SIR STAFFORD CRIPPS.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Mr. Kainikara M. Padmanabha Pillai has placed in my hands notice of a certain motion which he wants to move as an urgent motion. I have examined the term of the motion placed before me. I find that the motion is one of a complimentary character. It may be put on the same terms as motions of congratulations or as motions of condolence. I treat it on that footing and therefore I allow Mr. Padmanabha Pillai to make the motion. But in allowing Mr. Padmanabha Pillai to make it, let me say that the House will remember that it is a motion of a complimentary character and any discussion of this motion will naturally carry with it all the restrictions and implications of a complimentary character. Now I allow Mr. Padmanabha Pillai to make the motion.

MR. KAINIKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI : Sir, I move the following motion for the acceptance of this House.

"This Assembly which represents over six million people of a progressive Indian State which stands foremost in India in point of educational advancement, representative institutions, social justice and equality as evidenced by the historic

Temple Entry Proclamation and whose ancient and illustrious Ruling Dynasty has been in "friendship and alliance" with the British Power from the earliest times of their settlement in India, offers its cordial welcome to the Lord Privy Seal Sir Stafford Cripps on his momentous visit to India at this most critical juncture in the history of the Empire and desires to express its fervent hope that the forthcoming consultations in New Delhi will result in a satisfactory settlement of all outstanding questions in the successful solution of which Travancore is deeply interested as an important maritime State with problems peculiar to itself in its relations with the British Empire".

I have great pleasure in moving this motion of welcome and good wishes to Sir Stafford Cripps. The extreme seriousness of the situation, the full confidence that the British Cabinet has placed in their messenger and the messenger's own rare personal qualities give this visit an importance equalled only by his other visit to Russia and for the moment the attention of every nation in the world is concentrated at New Delhi.

I need not expatiate at any great length on the seriousness of the situation. The aggressive and exclusive tendencies of narrow nationalism and the dire forces of hatred and destruction which they foiled and brewed for twenty years have found their inevitable outlet in a cataclysm, the magnitude and intensity of which has no parallel in History. The conflagration has with a force of fatality drawn into it nation after nation until the whole world has been set on flames. From far off Europe the fire has passed from roof to roof and it is already stretching its fingers of flame on to our homes. On the one hand not only are the British possessions in the Far East being attacked and conquered but even her national prestige and position are being heavily hammered at. On the other, India unarmed, disunited and impoverished, with even the veil of Empire protection torn asunder is being exposed to all the dangers of a ruthless War. Yet the heart of this vast sub-continent is unmoved—rather it is somewhere else—it is preoccupied by her own aspirations and disappointment. She does not feel the War as her war. There is no common feeling. A feeling of common interest has to be instilled, the gulf between the ruled and the Ruler has to be bridged and the two nations have to be reunited by the bonds of love, comradeship and co-operation.

Speaking of the messenger, his ideals of democracy and socialism, his freedom from prejudice, his high sense of justice and his honest sympathy for the aspirations of India are well-known and it would be no exaggeration to say that in one respect his has been the most magnificent contribution to the allied forces so far. We have seen how he succeeded in wiping away the accumulated dislikes, prejudices and misunderstandings which existed between England and Russia and which a vast number of very clever statesmen and politicians had succeeded in building up by years of mishandling. The Soviet Army which has withheld the German onrush and exploded the theory of the invincibility of the Nazi forces is nothing but the person in Sir Stafford Cripps. That is indeed a present to the allied forces.

We in Travancore have every reason to be especially interested in this visit. No other part of India has been so terribly affected by the war. We have our own big scale produces. But we have lost our

[Mr. Kainikara M. Padmanabha Pillai.]

markets one by one. We depend for our food to a large extent on imported rice and for our transport on imported petrol. The war has cut off both. We depend for the major portion of our revenues on trade and commerce and the war has made them stand still. As such we need not say how deeply Travancore is interested in the speedy and successful culmination of the war and in everything that would help to bring that end nearer.

We have also our special interests in the satisfactory settlement of the Indian political situation and especially the place of the Indian State in the picture. Ours is a maritime country and its problems are peculiar to itself. I need not repeat what I explained at some detail three years ago when the Federation was actually on the anvil. Of the total revenue of the State more than two-thirds is derived from indirect taxation and if we are to depend upon the Government of India Act nearly three-fourths of our revenue will become federal.

Thus we in Travancore are vitally interested in both the sides of the visit of Sir Stafford Cripps *viz.*, the satisfactory solution of the Indian political situation and the hearty and active co-operation of the Indian nation in bringing the war to a speedy and successful conclusion. And with our high educational and cultural level and advanced political national and social consciousness, this interest is a living force with us. Educationally we stand foremost in India. Culturally we are behind no other State or Province. Our population stands above six millions. Our ideas and ideals of social justice and equality found their fulfilment and expression in the Temple Entry Proclamation. Our Legislature is more than half a century old. Our relations with the British power have always been one of friendship and alliance and it dates as far back as their first settlement in India. Even at the out-break of the war, our beloved Maharaja placed all the resources of the State at the disposal of His Majesty's Government and by subsequent action he has shown that this was no formal offer.

The Head of the Administration who is also the President of this Assembly is now in New Delhi and he will be interviewing Sir Stafford Cripps. I do not forget that he has gone there not exactly as a representative of this State only but yet he is there and it is a reassuring thought. For his wonderful powers and abilities on one side and on the other his intense love and loyalty not only to his Royal Master but also to this land of his choice and adoption make him the best and the most reliable representative of this country. We know that the country's interests are safe in his hands. I take this opportunity to request him to convey in person to Sir Stafford Cripps the warm feelings of welcome and good wishes of this Assembly.

With these words I commend this motion for the acceptance of the House.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: Sir, it is with no small pride that I rise to support this resolution of welcome to Sir Stafford Cripps which has been so ably moved by Mr. Kainikara Padmanabha Pillai. I do not for a moment ignore the presence in this House of veteran leaders

of public opinion like Sadasyatilaka T. K. Velu Pillai and others. The discussion that is expected to take place in New Delhi is of far-reaching importance and it affects the future of India and the whole world are watching this supreme hour. Sir Stafford Cripps is a rare personality. As a staunch exponent of the democratic ideals, with his vast experience in various spheres of activities, and his intense desire in the welfare of hundreds of millions of our countrymen in India, we may readily expect of Sir Stafford Cripps to do what is best for India and Indians alike. In planning an administrative reform for British India we may legitimately hope Sir Stafford will chalk out a scheme for the Indian States as well whereby the bond of love and loyalty between the Princes and their subjects would further be strengthened. The eyes of over 70 millions of States' subjects are turned on this white dove with the olive twig in its beak.

MR. DOMINIC JOSEPH: I wholeheartedly support the motion for extending a warm welcome to Sir Stafford Cripps. Sir Stafford Cripps has been charged with a mission with immense potentialities for the future of India and his mission has generated optimism and hopes of a fair settlement among the several conflicting interests in India. The British Cabinet could not have made a better choice than that of Sir Stafford Cripps. There is no doubt that he will bring to bear upon the momentous responsibility that he has undertaken that political discernment, that innate love of freedom and that superb statesmanlike qualities which he has demonstrated and which he possesses in a unique degree. We wish and hope that his labours in India will be followed with that political contentment which is indispensable to unstinted war efforts by a united India.

SADASYATILAKA T. K. VELU PILLAI: Sir, I have great pleasure to associate myself with the sentiments which have fallen from the mover of the resolution and others who spoke after him. We extend a cordial welcome to the Lord Privy Seal. We do so not merely because he has been a very successful lawyer, not because he is a friend of the down-trodden and the depressed, not because he is a successful Ambassador and a Plenipotentiary but because we expect to get very good service at his hands. We may talk of altruism, spirituality and such like. But so far as our existence in this mundane world is concerned, unless we have something to get from an individual or a body, something of a substantial nature, our hearts will not respond to as warmly as otherwise. I am strengthened in that feeling because of the wording of the latter part of the resolution. If the resolution merely gave a welcome to Sir Stafford, expressed good wishes, and felicitated him, I should not have said the few things which I am going to say now. Towards the close of the resolution we find the following words:—"the forthcoming consultations in New Delhi will result in a satisfactory settlement of all outstanding questions in the successful solution of which Travancore is deeply interested as an important maritime State with problems peculiar to itself in its relations with the British Empire". So it is not merely because of the position of Sir Stafford Cripps in the British Empire, not because of his position as an international figure

[Sadasyatilaka T. K. Velu Pillai.]

at Delhi but as a Plenipotentiary deputed by the wise Cabinet to settle the question of Indian reforms and the affairs of India at the spot that we look up to him.

The problems that we in Travancore have to face are many in number and they are of great magnitude. I may say, Sir, as a Travancorean and as a member of this House with some little experience in public life that if there is any State in India even among the large States which deserve recognition and maximum support at the hands of the Imperial Government, it is Travancore. Mr. Kainikara Padma-bha Pillai has alluded to our traditions, our antiquity, and our alliance with Great Britain. Allow me, Sir, to say that we have got certain large claims to recognition which no State in India possesses, for I shall be doing injustice to myself if I do not say with your permission on the floor of this House that, although there are large States, important States, and powerful States in India today, no State has anything like the continuity of history and prestige which Travancore has—a history which is over two thousand years old. At a time when other States were not functioning effectively, we helped Great Britain to develop its power in India. On the eve of the British occupation of India we and our Maharaja Marthanda Varma had the honour and the privilege of driving away the Dutch from the Malabar coast and making it impossible for them to establish their supremacy. There are other titles which we possess for prominent recognition. We have never been conquered by a foreign nation. We were able to drive away invaders, the Vijayanagar Generals and the Madura Nayaks, Mukilan and Tippu Sultan. I wish to develop two points only.

One is that however eminent a lawyer Sir Stafford Cripps is, whatever may be his qualities, it is likely that in talks with the representatives of British India, the National Congress and other organisations, we in Travancore occupying a comparatively smaller position in the imagination of Indian politicians are likely to suffer. For years and decades a disposition has manifested itself that so far as reforms are concerned with regard to Indian States the voice of the representatives of British India count more than the voice of the representatives of the States. It is a point of honour and I maintain it with all the strength of truth that we in Travancore are in a better position than the people of British India, for, whatever may be the views of individual members, I, for one, think that we who have never been conquered by a foreign power need not bow our heads. Considerable mischief has been done for many years on this account. If this is to go on, we in Travancore and other States are likely to develop a kind of inferiority complex.

Another point to be considered in dealing with this question is that the Government of Travancore has got a duty to tell the constitution makers of British India. "Look here, we have taken the people into our confidence, we have given them representative institutions. Those institutions have been functioning properly and those institutions

had praises from Lord Willingdon and Cabinet Members like Sir Samuel Hoare. Here we have complete social equality. Therefore we are in a better position to offer advice with regard to constitutional reforms." I anticipate difference of opinion from certain people that so far as constitutional development in Travancore and other States are concerned they have to fall in with the changing conditions in British India. We do not want outsiders to give us their views in these matters. I do not wish to take up more of the time of the House on this matter. But I may be permitted to state that there are lots of questions in which we have suffered so much for nearly eighty years, for instance, on the Interportal Trade Convention.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Let me point out to the honourable member that at the very outset I said that this motion ought to be treated as only a formal motion and minute details regarding the constitutional position of British India or of Travancore should not be gone into. The honourable member will kindly confine himself to the broad principles underlying the resolution.

SADASYATILAKA T. K. VELU PILLAI : I bow to the ruling of the Chair. I shall not make any suggestion which comes into conflict with what has been directed by the Chair. I agree with Mr. Padmanabha Pillai when he said in placing our demand before Sir Stafford Cripps and the British Cabinet we have got a brilliant advocate of our cause in the present Dewan. With these words I support the resolution.

MR. J. E. A. PEREIRA : Sir, I have also great pleasure in supporting the motion which has been moved by my friend Mr. Kainikara Padmanabha Pillai. It is but meet and proper that this Legislature with our long and honoured career should take notice of such an important event as that of the visit of Sir Stafford Cripps.

As we all know, the interests of British India and that of Travancore are intertwined more so because Travancore is a maritime State and as such we have great interest in the mission of Sir Stafford Cripps.

The task that Sir Stafford Cripps has undertaken is very tremendous. He has to search for unity among the various diverse conflicting interests of the Indian India and that of Princely Order and the British Government could not have chosen a better man to tackle the problem than Sir Stafford Cripps. I say so because it is Sir Stafford Cripps who was mainly responsible for bringing about an understanding with our present ally, Russia. We all know the great difference between the ideals and ideologies of the Britisher and that of Russia. Yet it was Sir Stafford Cripps' versatile genius and tact which brought about an understanding with Russia. In the same manner, I hope he will be successful in fashioning a constitution for the whole of India which will bring about unity among diversity of conflicting interests.

I am glad that our able Dewan has at present gone to meet him and we can be sure the interests of our Maharaja who is a cent per cent

[Mr. J. E. A. Pereira.]

ideal Ruler among the Princely Order will be well represented by our able Dewan and let us hope the meeting will bring about mutually lasting benefit to India and our country.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: Sir, I support the motion. In doing so I associate myself with every word that has been said—and said truly—by the honourable mover. I also fervently pray and wish for the complete success of Sir Stafford Cripps' mission and all that it means at this moment of crisis.

MR. K. G. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI: Sir, on behalf of my party I also wish to associate myself with the mover of this motion. It is not worthwhile now to canvass or to suggest ideas and points either on behalf of Travancore or on behalf of India as a whole. Those of us, Sir, who have listened to the B. B. C. this morning were given a fifteen minutes talk on Sir Stafford Cripps by the famous commentator Mr. Lindley Fraser. He said that Sir Stafford Cripps was not only an astute and able lawyer but also a man of high integrity. It was the opinion of the commentator that Sir Stafford Cripps has got a special capacity for finding a solution for any complicated and intricate problem. It is only proper that we the members of this Assembly just as we meet on the eve of the arrival of Sir Stafford Cripps should convey to him our humble, at the same time, our loyal and genuine good wishes for the success of his mission and point out to him the extreme importance of the occasion, in view of two fundamental facts affecting Travancore. So far as Travancoreans are concerned, from time immemorial, they are in possession of a tradition of loyalty to the Throne. In Travancore there has been for centuries a Ruling Family who have astonished the world by their simplicity, benevolence and by their one aim *viz.*, to serve the interests of their subjects. Also, Sir, it would be proper to point out to Sir Stafford Cripps in a humble manner that we are a maritime State. It means that we swim or sink to the extent we are able to get our foodstuffs. Here as well as in British India, rice is the essential food crop. To what extent we can keep our body and soul together, to that extent alone are we able to keep our economic problems on a proper basis. I do not want Sir, at this stage to reiterate what other honourable members said about the advancements achieved by our State in social and other matters. But I want to say that we are behind no other part of India either in point of Education, in point of political acumen, or in point of industry. Therefore, Sir, we who are assembled here representing millions of people are best fitted to pay our humble tribute to Sir Stafford Cripps for his effort to bring about a settlement and we pray that the peculiar problems of our State will also be duly considered by him.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Before putting this motion, let me associate myself with all the sentiments expressed by the honourable mover of this motion. Sir Stafford Cripps, Lord Privy Seal, has just arrived in India and we have met when he has arrived in India. It is therefore only fitting and proper that this Assembly which is one of the oldest

legislative Houses in India should accord a cordial welcome to Sir Stafford and express its good wishes to him for the success of his mission. Sir Stafford has come to India on a very difficult and delicate mission. His sympathies towards India are well known. There is no doubt that he can be expected to deal with the Indian problem in the right spirit and in the proper perspective. I am sure that his great talents as a constitutional lawyer and his great experience as a diplomat would stand him in good stead in solving the difficult problem which he has undertaken to solve. Let us all wish that with his great abilities he will be able to bring about a settlement which will be satisfactory to India in general and Travancore in particular and hope that in solving the Indian problem he will remember the peculiar position of Travancore as a maritime State and as a State far ahead of other States.

The resolution was put and carried *nem con.*

ELECTIONS TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order, order. I have now to make an announcement. You will probably be aware that the Government have reconstituted the Economic Development Board on the lines recommended by the House. The reconstituted Board is to consist of fifteen members of whom ten are non-officials. The nomination of these non-officials will be made by Government in consultation with both the Houses of the Legislature, the Assembly selecting six and the Council selecting four members. The non-official members of this Assembly will meet under the presidency of one of the Panel of Chairmen on the 26th March 1942 after the business of the House is over, and select six members to the Board. The selection can be made not only from among the members of the House but also from such experts from outside as in the opinion of the House will strengthen the Board and give it the benefit of expert advice.

MESSAGES FROM THE SRI CHITRA STATE COUNCIL.

SECRETARY: Sir, I beg to report that the following Messages have been received from the Secretary to the Sri Chitra State Council:—

1. "Under Rule 42 of the Travancore Legislative Rules I am directed to inform you that the Sri Chitra State Council at its meeting held on the 8th December 1941 agreed without any amendment to the following Bills which were passed by the Sri Mulam Assembly on the 4th December 1941:—

- (1) The Travancore Fisheries Act (Amendment) Bill.
- (2) The Travancore Police Act (Amendment) Bill.
- (3) The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (Amendment) Bill.